It is an object of the present invention to provide a built-in screen mechanism which would prevent insects and other foreign objects from climbing into a beverage can such as for beer or soda.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention is an internally mounted safety screen for a pull tab aluminum beverage can of the type used to hold soft drinks and beer. The screen is attached to the underside of a beverage can lid during the manufacturing process and covers the opening. It will prevent the entry of foreign objects, such as bees or insects which may cause serious problems, even death, if ingested.

The invention, in a most preferred embodiment comprises a screen, like that of a strainer, positioned around the interior of a flip top beverage can, the screen being affixed to the opening of the outer periphery of the opening of a can. The screen is concave so as not to obstruct the seal when it is thrust downward, positioned to prevent objects such as insects from obtaining access to the can.

In an alternative preferred embodiment, the invention comprises an expandable screen which is designed to expand downward into the can as the can seal is opened. In this manner the screen forms a concave shape as the seal is thrust downward into the can.

A Brief Description of the Figures

Figure 1 is an overhead view of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a side perspective view of the present invention.

Figures 3a and 3b illustrate the alternative embodiment of the present invention.

Detailed Description of the Present Invention

The present invention is described with reference to the enclosed figures wherein the same numbers are utilized where applicable.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the invention. The present invention is designed to operate in conjunction with a standard pull top can. As can be seen, the invention comprises a conventional beverage can top with a flip top opening mechanism and sealed notch. The opening mechanism is of the type shown and described in U.S. Patent No. 4,832,641 which comprises a top part 12 which is lifted up A and which pushes down on an ovalar shaped sealing member 14 surrounding an orifice 19 which is thrust downward to open the container. The invention, in the most preferred embodiment comprises a screen 16 designed to surround the interior orifice 19 of the can and form a complete barrier. As shown, the screen is a metallic cross mesh 16a. It is to be appreciated that other screen or straining mechanisms fulfill the spirit and scope of the invention. The screen may comprise a strainer of any type and may be constructed of a number of materials including polymers.

In the preferred embodiment shown in Figure 2, the invention is an integrated screen 16 which is affixed below the sealed opening. In one embodiment, the screen 16 is preformed as a concave shape 18, which permits the sealing member 14 to be pushed downward and opened. The screen forms a complete barrier between the opening of the can and the can's interior which blocks the entry of insects, debris and the like.

In a further embodiment of Figures 3a and 3b, the screen member 16 is originally flush against the opening and is expandable downward 20 as the sealing member 14 is thrust downward. Hence, the screen member 16 has an expandable feature to form the concave shape which enables the screen member 16 to expand as the sealing member 14 is thrust inward. In both embodiments, the screen member functions to prevent impurities and to stop insects from entering the can.

The present invention has been described with reference to the enclosed Figures and preferred embodiment. It is to be appreciated that other embodiments fulfill the spirit.